

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 607

By Casada

A RESOLUTION recognizing Smith Brothers Farm upon its designation as a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Smith and Holt families of Williamson County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families; the Smith Brothers Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1878, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and varied history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, located just inside Williamson County on the Maury County line, Smith Brothers Farm was established in 1878 by Frank Erwin Smith, who purchased the land from George and Rebecca Cathey, relatives of his wife, Sallie P. Cathey Smith; and

WHEREAS, Frank Smith's sons, John D. and Thomas P. Smith, and grandsons, William Franklin and Riley Smith, were the subsequent owners of the farm, which was used for an array of agricultural operations, and members of each generation immersed themselves in the activities of home demonstration clubs, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and the Williamson County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, though the property was legally divided among heirs in 1981, the farm continued being worked as a whole and, in 1998, the founder's great-great-grandson, Jeffrey Lee Holt, built a home and began working the land; and

WHEREAS, today, Mr. Holt, along with his wife, Jennifer, and their children, Clay and Stacey, raise hay, beef cattle, and goats on the farm. Each is active in agriculture-related organizations, Mr. Holt serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Williamson County Cattlemen's Association, and the Holts are regarded as a prominent farming family within their community; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like the members of the Holt family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Jeffrey Holt and the entire Holt family, whose Smith Brothers Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend them for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.